

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 03013

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : SREF, TW
SUBJECT : ASSESSMENT OF ROC POLICY ON INDOCHINESE
- REFUGEES

REF: STATE 094542 (NOTAL), STATE 122309 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. APPARENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE ROC SECURITY FORCES HAVE
SLOWED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REFUGEE POLICY
OUTLINED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO
ON MARCH 10 AND CONFIRMED BY MOFA'S NOTE OF APRIL 3.
END SUMMARY.

2. MOFA OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT THE
"SECURITY FORCES" (PROBABLY TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND)
ARE RESISTING FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROC'S REFUGEE
POLICY AND THAT THE ISSUE MAY HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE
PREMIER FOR RESOLUTION. GIVEN THIS INTERNAL PROBLEM
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WHOSE RESOLUTION MAY BE FURTHER DELAYED BECAUSE OF THE
MAY 20 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION AND SUBSEQUENT CABINET
CHANGE, MOFA HAS ASKED US TO WAIT "A WEEK OF SO" BEFORE
ASKING FORMALLY TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH THEM.

3. CURRENT SITUATION.

A. THE PREMIER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE ROC WOULD ACCEPT 500 REFUGEES FROM SRV UNDER AUSPICES OF THE ICRC. THE APRIL 3 NOTE RAISED THAT FIGURE TO 2,000 "OVER A PERIOD OF TIME." THE GROC NOW IS SAYING IT IS PREPARED "AT THIS TIME" TO REPATRIATE ONLY 500. ACCORDING TO AP REPORT OF MAY 13 DATED IN BANGKOK, THE FIRST GROUP OF 190 ETHNIC CHINESE LEFT SAIGON ON MAY 13 FOR TAIWAN BY CHARTERED AIRCRAFT. WHETHER THE ROC WILL LATER AGREE TO TAKE MORE THAN 500 IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE ISSUES IN THE DISPUTE WITH THE SECURITY FORCES.

B. ROC HAS CONTINUED TO LAND GROUPS OF BOAT CASE REFUGEES AS PROMISED AND TO CARE FOR THEM UNDER AUSPICES OF FREE CHINA RELIEF ASSOCIATION. SINCE MARCH 1977 TEMPORARY SHELTER HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY GROC FOR A TOTAL OF 180 BOAT CASE REFUGEES (116 ARE STILL HERE, 11 ETHNIC CHINESE WERE RESETTLED IN TAIWAN, AND 53 OTHER REFUGEES LEFT FOR THE U.S.).

C. ROC HAS NOT YET COMPLETED THE PROMISED "RECEPTION CENTER" FOR REFUGEES ON HSIAO LIU CHIU ISLAND. BOAT CASE REFUGEES ARE CURRENTLY QUARTERED AT HSINTIEN (20 INDIVIDUALS) AND PENGHU CAMP (96 INDIVIDUALS).

D. MOFA ALSO ADVISED THAT NONE REPEAT NONE OF THE CURRENT BOAT CASE REFUGEE POPULATION IN TAIWAN (116
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INDIVIDUALS) IS CONSIDERED TO BE OF CHINESE ORIGIN, INCLUDING A GROUP OF NUNG CHINESE. THUS THE EMBASSY IS PROCESSING THESE REFUGEE CASES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT USG CRITERIA.

E. THE POLICY IS UNCHANGED WITH REGARD TO PERSONS FROM COMMUNIST OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WHO WISH TO COME TO TAIWAN. THIS CATEGORY IS STILL LIMITED TO THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS IN A NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRY, EXCEPT IN CERTAIN SELECTED CASES, I.E., DEFECTORS.

F. MOFA HAS POINTED OUT THAT ETHNIC CHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND, WITH RELATIVES OR TIES TO TAIWAN, MAY CONTINUE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE CHINA AIRLINES REPRESENTATIVE IN BANGKOK. HOWEVER, ALL CASES ARE PROCESSED INDIVIDUALLY AND FORWARDED TO THE TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND HEADQUARTERS FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION. ROC REJECTED RECENTLY THE RESETTLEMENT APPLICATIONS OF FOURTEEN THAILAND LAND CAMP REFUGEE FAMILIES. THIS IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE ROC POSITION THAT SUCH APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED INDIVIDUALLY (READ STRICTLY).

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES MOFA ATTEMPTING TO PUSH FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROC'S REFUGEE POLICY AS OUTLINED TO US BY THE PREMIER AND THE APRIL 3 TEXT. WE ARE, THEREFORE, INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH THE REQUEST THAT WE HOLD OFF MAKING ANOTHER REPRESENTATION TO THEM UNTIL AFTER THE SHAKEDOWN PERIOD FOLLOWING THE MAY 20 INAUGURATION.
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